reach the bottom and consolidate the bog,—its depth would literally appear to be the unfathomable void of a bottomless pit. In fact, the evil seems to feed on what has been administered by way of remedy, and to grow with the growth of its quasi-antidote. And now comes the grand self-generated difficulty—the retreat—which can scarcely fail to be in itself a source of new disaster. A fifth part of that immense army of labourers, so many of whom have been needlessly attracted from other employment, such as the reproductive tillage of the ground, are forthwith to be shaken off the "public work" rolls, and turned adrift, at a week's notice at furthest, a notice which, as an M. P. (who plainly speaks from any thing but the dire experience of those who know from trial how difficult it often is to procure employment) declares to be amply sufficient for the procurement of an honest livelihood. In some districts, indeed, the proportion of those to be thus disposed of will be far more than a mere fifth; but however great the evils attendant on this new measure may prove to be, the crisis is now perceived to be such, that immensely greater evils still are likely to result from the past and present abandonment of the soil, and of all future prospect of the usual harvest. The most serious alarm is now declared to be felt by those who see in the very way of the suffering people no other surety than that of being gored on either horn of this terrible dilemma. Either the public works must be so far suspended at the risk of fearful evil to tens of thousands, or the hope of a harvest must die within the breasts of all, at the risk of a still more fearful evil to hundreds of thousands, nay to millions. Even already, thousands of well-doing farmers, panic-stricken, are literally flying the country as emigrants to the land of universal refuge across the Atlantic Ocean. Gross abuses of the public work system are still said to prevail on the part of superintendents as well as of labourers, thus exhausting the far more than princely means, designed for the benefit of the destitute alone, to no good end, and that too at both extremeties of the scale of dependance—from above in extravagant superintendence, as well as from below in worthless work,—and thus in burning the candle at both extremities is evil accumulating on evil, and all at a cost even nationally ruinous though worse than useless.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

A general Court of Sewers for the City and Liberty of Westminster was held at the Court House on Friday, Capt. Bague, R.N., in the chair. A long report was read from the surveyor to the court, setting forth that a sewer in Hertford-place, Notting Hill, had been built with pit-sand mortar, contrary to the regulations of this commission.

The clerk of the works gave evidence, that during the progress of building the sewer, he observed that pit-sand mortar was being used for that purpose. He ordered the men at work to desist, but they took no notice whatever, and on a subsequent visit he found that the sewer had been completed. The sewer had been built by Mr. Holmes, of Notting Hill.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson was of opinion that a formal notice in writing should be given to the parties.

The subject led to a good deal of discussion, and it was finally resolved unanimously, that Mr. Holmes should take up the whole of the work and rebuild the same according to the directions of their surveyor.

Mr. Dethick, a builder, of the parish of St. Anne, Westminster, appeared before the court to complain of the exorbitant charge made upon him, by the surveyor of that parish, for relaying the pavement removed in the construction of a sewer, viz., 3s. per yard, which was considerably more than ever had been demanded in any other parish. He wished the advice of the court thereon. The subject was referred to the surveyor of the court, to report thereon at the next meeting.

Arching over the King's Scholars' Pond Sewer.—It having been determined at a former court that the King's Scholars' Pond Sewer should be arched over jointly at the expense of this commission and the Westminster Improvement Company, the question of the amount of contribution on the part of the public came this day before the court. Mr. Donaldson was of opinion that it would be unfair to charge the public more than was absolutely necessary to meet the wants of the particular locality. The first size sewer might be amply sufficient for their own local purposes, but would be insufficient for a district, and therefore he believed the expense attendant thereon should be equally borne by the district to be benefitted. He should accordingly move that 10s. per foot be the fixed price for each side when any main line of sewer was required to be arched over. Mr. T. Harrison objected to this, as it might so happen that the covering of a sewer would not cost 1*l.* per foot, and they had no right to derive any profit from the public by the work. The Clerk said no main line of sewer would cost less than 1*l.* per foot. If they left the question open without fixing any maximum price, in every sewer that was to be constructed, builders would be continually coming before that court to complain that expenses had been unfairly placed upon them.

Mr. J. White deemed it immaterial as to the size. If anything could increase its value, it would be any additional depth they might obtain.

Mr. W. Donaldson objected to their fixing depth as the test of payment. Were it so, builders would lay in a temporary drain, rather than an efficient one, to save expense.

It was finally resolved, on the motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. T. L. Wood, that for any sewer to be built in future at the charge of any district, the contribution of the public should be as follows:—No. 3, 4s. per foot; No. 2, 5s. 6d. per foot; and No. 1 7s. 6d. per foot; and any size exceeding No. 1, 10s. per foot.

Miscellanea.

Preservation of Metallic Surfaces from Rust.—A Sheffield manufacturer in lately advising with us as to the best mode of preserving the polish of steel surfaces in packed goods, especially during transit, assured us that the difficulty is one which has given great and perpetual annoyance. The packing of steel goods in some simple mode of galvanic connection with slips of zinc, the more electro-positive metal, so as to render the less positive steel more negative, and hence less oxidizable, we at the moment recommended for trial, but probably even in such cases, though more particularly for engineering or other purposes, a recent suggestion to coat the surfaces in a peculiar and permanent way with copal or lac varnish may be of value. It has been proposed to effect this very desirable object by dipping or washing the finished article in a dilute solution of acid, two parts sulphuric, and one nitric, and then when dried, without fingering or rubbing, by coating it with the varnish, which, it is said, under such treatment, will never peel off, unless, of course, the surface be exposed to friction or abrasion. Copal, with a little litharge added, is considered as best suited for this purpose.

Stained-Glass Window, Liverpool.—A stained-glass window, executed by Mr. Wailes, has been put up in St. Martin's church, Liverpool, at the cost of about 350*l.* The prominent subject is the Crucifixion, with the Virgin and St. John on each side, and St. Mary Magdalene embracing our Lord's feet, the figures being as large as life. This group occupies the three centre lights of the upper portion of the window; and in the corresponding compartments beneath the transom are the apostles St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. James. A border of groups is carried round the whole window, composed of smaller figures, illustrative of the Passion and other events of our Lord's life. The tracery at the top of the window is filled by four angels, together with the pelican, the dove, and the lamb; the highest compartment of all being occupied with the Ascension. The window is said to contain between 3,000 and 4,000 pieces of glass, and has 120 figures in it.

Depression of the Glass Trade.—At Sunderland, according to the local papers, the glass trade is very much depressed, and 300 glass-men and labourers have been dismissed from Messrs. Hartley and Co.'s extensive establishment. This untoward state of things is said to be occasioned by foreign competition, which is likely at least to lead to a serious reduction of wages if not of work itself.

Building and Bankruptcy.—At the Bankruptcy Court in Basinghall-street, on Wednesday a meeting was held under a fiat sued out against Mr. Stewart, a barrister, and proprietor of the Hippndrome and Norley estates at Notting Hill, in which he had made extensive building improvements. It was now sought to declare him a bankrupt as a builder, dealer, and chapman. Mr. Lawrence appeared to oppose the adjudication, on the ground that a nobleman or gentleman was at full liberty to build on his own estate without being liable to the bankrupt laws. Mr. Stewart had taken the ground on lease for 99 years, and had built for improvements. If it were held that he was liable to be made a bankrupt of, the Marquis of Westminster, the Marquis of Bute, and other noblemen, would also be liable. Mr. Duncan, who appeared in support of the fiat, said the cases were very different. Mr. Stewart was not improving his own freehold, but had taken the ground on a building lease, and, therefore, built for his own profit, and making that profit on the materials, was liable to the bankrupt laws. His Honour said that he was inclined to the opinion that this did not bring the case within the bankrupt laws, for Mr. Stewart had taken a long lease, which it appeared to him gave such an interest as to entitle him to build for the improvement of his property; but as there was some difference of opinion, he would consider the case, and give judgment next Thursday.

The Fall of a Church Ceiling in Manchester.—The accident at St. Michael's church, Manchester, has probably been heard of, by this time, by most of our readers. When the ceiling of a church built only 58 years ago tumbles in, to the extent of 50 feet by 12 feet (ceiling, joists, lathing, and plaster); it ought to make persons think of the danger to which they may be every day exposed by bad building, and lead them to discourage it. Mr. Bellhouse and Mr. Shellard, who were deputed to examine into the cause of the accident, attribute it to the decay of some of the timbers which supported the plaster ceiling. We have since heard of the fall of a factory, in the same town, through failure of an iron *girder*.

Another Purpose for the Pyramids.—The new Governor of Jamaica, Sir Charles Grey, lately created some amusement by asserting at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, "That the pyramids erected by the Egyptians *were intended as immense tanks for supplying and irrigating the surrounding plains with water*." The astounding doctrine, says our authority, seemed to take the meeting completely by surprise. And well it might; especially those members of it who had seen a sectional view of these extraordinary constructions. It is even more absurd than the theory that they are the granaries erected by Joseph, which was once propounded.

The Royal Stables at Windsor.—Since the discovery of the dry-rot throughout the extensive boarding around the riding school at the royal mews, at Windsor (the whole of which has recently been entirely removed), it has been found that the wooden divisions of the stalls and other portions of the woodwork in the royal stables are similarly affected. In several of the stables the stalls have been newly constructed, and it is feared, in consequence of the inroads made by the rot, that the whole will have to be removed and undergo a similar process.—*Morning Post.*

The New Works at Jersey.—The new north pier, says the *Daily Correspondent*, is now in progress. The foundations at the head were laid on Thursday last. The tide receded to a very great distance, as if to enable the workmen to lay two tiers of stones along the line of the works. The time allowed to the contractors for completing their undertaking is five years and eight months, and the cost of the works will be 109,000*l.*, which, with 57,000*l.* paid for the south pier, incidental and contingent expenses, engineer's plans, &c., will amount to about 180,000*l.*

A bad Practitioner.—Some one has said, that "intemperance is a great architect—it builds gaols, hospitals, lunatic asylums, work houses, and hulks." It may be added, on the other hand, that it soon knocks down all that a man may have previously built up,—whether it be reputation or houses, and speedily saps the foundation of all that is good.

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